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Artists Funds and Resources

Prepared by,
The Massachusetts Council
on the Arts and Humanities

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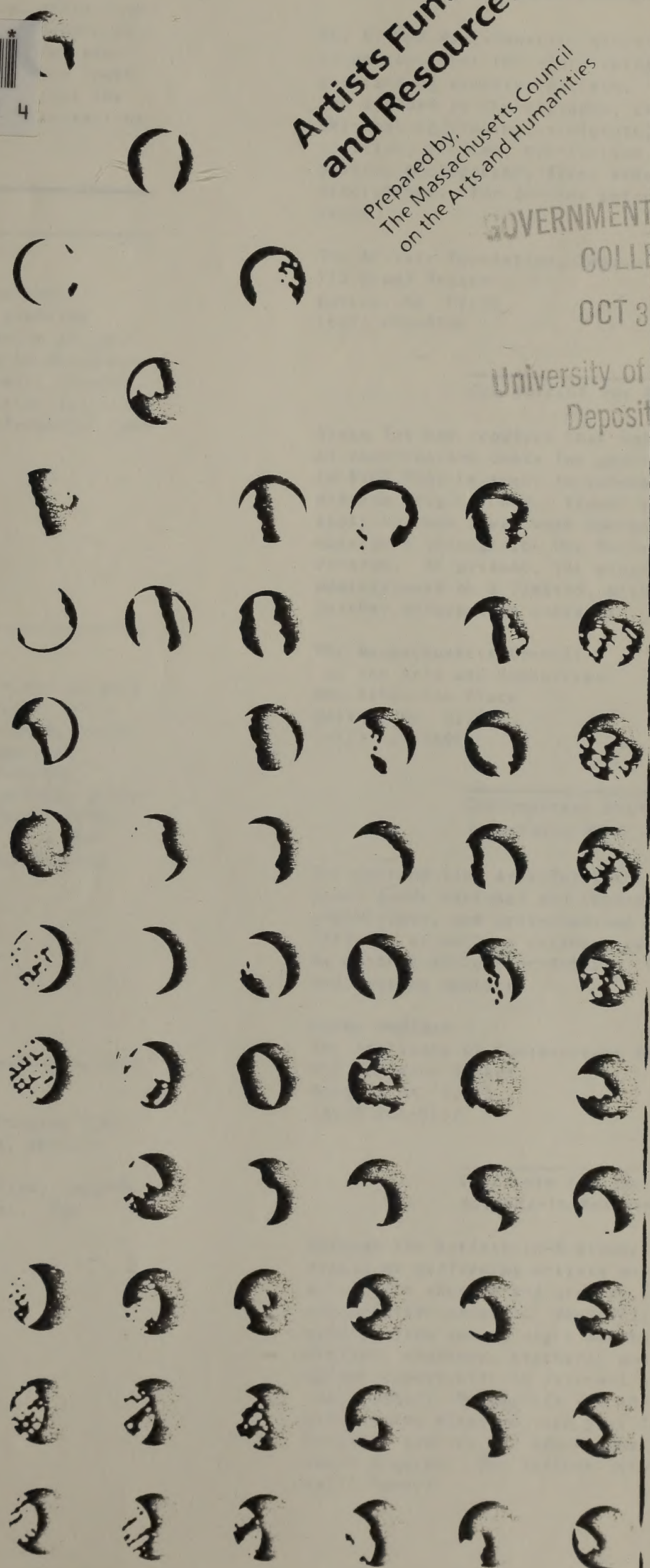

The Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities has prepared this funding and resource guide for the individual artists who live and work in the state of Massachusetts. When looking for economic support for producing your art, the first task is to learn where the resources are. We hope that the following list of programs and organizations will be helpful to you.

Funding

New Works

Awards averaging $30,000 are available through the NEW WORKS program, enabling cultural institutions to commission artists to create "new works." Funding is available to commission work in media, music, theatre, visual art, and dance. Competition for these awards is keen. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Council
on the Arts and Humanities
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-3662

MassProductions

MassProductions is the Council's new project presentation and completion program. This year, media artists seeking finishing funds for a project will be able to apply to MassProductions to complete a work-in-progress and present it to the public, under the sponsorship of a cultural institution. Proposals in film, video, radio, and photography will be considered. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Council
on the Arts and Humanities
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 482-8100

Art Exchange

The Council's new Art Exchange Program funds national and international tours, exhibitions, and presentations of art and artists, as well as residencies. Awards must be matched dollar-for-dollar. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Council
on the Arts and Humanities
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-3668

Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Program

The $7,500 Massachusetts Artists Fellowship is one way that the state recognizes outstanding creative artists. Fellowships are awarded in choreography, crafts, printmaking/drawing, sculpture, music composition, fiction, non-fiction, playwriting, poetry, photography, film, video, and other disciplines. For further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

One Percent For Art Program

State law now requires that not less than 1% of construction costs for public projects (up to $100,000) be spent to purchase or commission original art. Visual artists can apply to have their work purchased or commissioned through the One Percent for Art Program. At present, the program is being administered on a limited, pilot basis. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Council
on the Arts and Humanities
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-3668

Contemporary Arts Television Fund

The Contemporary Arts Televison Fund (CAT Fund) funds national and international tours, exhibitions, and presentations of art and artists, as well as residencies. Awards must be matched dollar-for-dollar. For further information contact:

Kathy Huffman
The Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 266-5152

Institute For The Arts: Artists-In-Residence Program

Through the Artists-in-Residence Program, visual or performing artists are brought into schools to educate and provide insight into the creative process. Residencies last usually from one to eight months and afford artists, students, teachers, and parents, a unique opportunity to interact and learn from one another. To qualify for the program, artists are screened each year for the artistic quality and educational content of their program. For further information contact: (over)

The Institute for the Arts
c/o The Cultural Education Collaborative
59 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 338-3073

Meet the Composers Program

Composers, alert your sponsors to the Meet the Composer Program, which could cover up to 50% of the cost of your concert or local performance. The music may be choral, orchestral, chamber, folk/ethnic, jazz, opera, electronic, or experimental. For further information contact:

The New England Foundation for the Arts
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 492-2914

Live Literature Program

The Live Literature Program helps organizations sponsor readings by published poets and writers living in New England. For further information contact:

The New England Foundation for the Arts
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 492-2914

The New England Regional Fellowship for Independent Film and Videomakers

Administered by the Boston Film/Video Foundation and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, this fellowship program grants awards to independent film and video artists to complete specific works-in-progress. Fellowships are given in recognition of outstanding creative work. For further information contact:

The Boston Film/Video Foundation
1126 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 536-1540

Local Arts Lottery Councils

There are 322 Arts Lottery Councils across the state that distribute funds generated by the Massachusetts State Lottery's "Megabucks" game. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Arts Lottery
Commission
State House
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 722-2193

The National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, offers fellowships to individual creative artists in a variety of disciplines. Awards range from $5,000 to $25,000. For further information contact:

The National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20506

Resources

Massachusetts Artists Mailing List

The Massachusetts Artists Mailing List is a new, free service designed to ensure that artists in all disciplines regularly receive applications for the Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Program. This list is available to corporations, organizations and individuals interested in contacting artists. For further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

Massachusetts Artists Slide Registry

To see the type of work that is being produced by fellow artists, make an appointment to use the Artists Foundation's slide registry. The registry contains entries in crafts, painting, graphic art, sculpture, and photography by more than 500 artists selected as fellows or finalists by the Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Program. For an appointment or further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

Grants and Awards for Artists

Money Business: Grants and Awards for Creative Artists is an invaluable reference guide that lists more than 200 organizations that offer grants, awards, and prizes to writers, performers, and visual and media artists. Its price is $9.50. To order a copy or for more information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

Regional Arts Councils

Regional Arts Councils annually offer an array of services and resources to artists and artists groups. For the name of the regional council closest to you, call the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities at (617) 727-3668.

Artists Colonies

Artists seeking the time and space to create new works or complete those already in progress, are encouraged to send for Artists Colonies, a five-page guide to 24 artists colonies which offer residencies of varying length. Two excellent colonies located in Massachusetts are Cummington Community of the Arts (Cummington, MA 02106) and the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center (24 Pearl Street, Box 565, Provincetown, MA 02657). For a copy of Artists Colonies, send a check for $1.50 to:

Center for Arts Information
625 Broadway
New York, NY 10012

Institute for the Arts: Directory of Artists

Each year the Cultural Education Collaborative's Insititute for the Arts produces a Directory of Artists and Performing Groups. By listing in the directory, artists are given the opportunity to be selected for work in public schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Work in the schools includes performances, readings of original work, lecture-demonstrations, and workshops. Positions vary in length, ranging from one-day events to to an artists-in-residency lasting up to eight months. To qualify for the directory, artists each year are screened for the artistic quality and the educational content of their programs. For further information contact:

The Institute for the Arts
c/o Cultural Education Collaborative
59 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 338-3073

Open Studio Planning Guide

Dispel the mystery of planning a successful open studio event with Open Studio Event: An Artists Planning Guide ($1.75 per copy). To place an order or for further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

The New England Touring Roster

The New England Touring Roster is used by sponsors throughout New England to hire performers and performing arts groups. For further information contact:

The New England Foundation for the Arts
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 482-2914

Taking Care of Business

Taking Care of Business is a series of workshops designed to help artists with marketing, writing grant proposals, and more. For further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts

Need legal advice? Help with your books? Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts is a referral service which matches artists with lawyers and accountants who are well-versed in artistic concerns. For further information contact:

The Artists Foundation, Inc.
110 Broad Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 482-8100

Group Health Insurance

Beating the soaring cost of individual health care is what the Massachusetts Cultural Alliance's new group health plan is all about. Membership is open to all artists. Through the program you gain access to group policies in either Harvard Community Health or Blue Cross Blue Shield. For further information contact:

The Massachusetts Cultural Alliance
833 Statler Office Building
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 423-0260